

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
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USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ROME 2710

SHAPE FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, NATO
SUBJECT: GENERAL HAIG'S SPEECH TO ROME'S AMERICAN CLUB/
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. GENERAL HAIG'S CLEAR AND FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF SECURITY
PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND HIS DEFT
HANDLING OF DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AT A JOINT SESSION,
FEBRUARY 7, OF THE AMERICAN CLUB AND AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF ROME CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF NATO'S
ROLE.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE LUNCHEON LIMITED TO SHORT,
SYMPATHETIC ARTICLES IN CONSERVATIVE ROME DAILY IL TEMPO,
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AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY AMERICAN.

3. HOWEVER, SIMULTANEOUS APPEARANCE IN SEVERAL MAJOR
PAPERS AND MAGAZINES OF ARTICLES ON NATO, INCLUDING INTERVIEW
WITH GENERAL HAIG CONDUCTED EARLIER IN BELGIUM, GAVE ADDED
RESONANCE TO HIS SPEECH.

4. ARTICLES IN L'EUROPEAO AND PANORAMA, TWO LARGE CIRCULATION WEEKLIES THAT ARE NOT USUALLY FRIENDLY TO US POLICIES, CARRIED LONG REPORTS ON STATE OF NATO, SOVIET BUILDUP IN EUROPE, PROBLEMS OF COMMUNIST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. ARTICLES WERE FACTUAL, IF SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT CLAIMS THAT WARSAW PACT FORCES ARE AS MENACING AS THEY WERE PAINTED BY NATO BRIEFERS.

5. BOTH MAGAZINES CARRIED SEPARATE SECTIONS BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL HAIG BY NEWSMEN ON USIS-SPONSORED NATO TOUR IN WHICH HE ARGUED PERSUASIVELY FOR ADDITIONAL NATO SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF GROWING SOVIET POWER IN EUROPE AND IN A NON-POLEMICAL BUT VERY CLEAR WAY MADE THE POINT THAT COMMUNIST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD CREATE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES FOR NATO COOPERATION.

6. REPORTS ON ALL ARTICLES WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO YOU AS PART OF USIA MEDIA REACTION REPORTING. COPIES ARE BEING FORWARDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER. GARDNER

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